



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS



*Information on Travel for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games
in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*

From February 12 through 28, 2010, the Winter Olympic Games will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and the Winter Paralympic Games will follow on March 12-21. Visitors transiting the United States en route to Canada to participate in the Games or to attend as spectators will require a valid U.S. visa or must qualify for visa-free travel under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). In addition, a valid U.S. visa will be necessary for anyone not eligible for VWP travel who plans to visit the United States during their stay in Canada – whether they plan to enter by land, sea, or air. To ensure that travel arrangements are not interrupted, those travelers who require U.S. visas and are planning to transit or visit the United States during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games should apply in their home country well in advance of their trip.

***Visas to the United States:** Travelers who are not eligible for the Visa Waiver Program and wish to transit the United States or visit the United States during their stay in Canada should apply for a visitor's visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate closest to their home. Visas cannot be obtained at the land border with Canada, and visa services at the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver during the 2010 Games will be limited. To find out more about requirements for applying for a U.S. visa, and to locate the consular section closest to your home, please visit www.usembassy.gov and follow the links for Nonimmigrant Visas. General visa information is also available at travel.state.gov. Please apply as early as possible to ensure you can obtain your visa in advance of your trip.

Visa Waiver Program (VWP): The Visa Waiver Program enables nationals of 35 countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. Eligible travelers can use the VWP to transit the U.S. to Canada in order to attend or participate in the 2010 Games, or to cross the land border into the U.S. while at the Games. Not all countries participate in the VWP, and not all travelers from VWP countries are eligible to use the program. It is important to note that a valid Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) approval is required for all VWP travel to the United States. To find out who qualifies for VWP travel, visit our website, travel.state.gov.

ESTA: ESTA is a free, automated system used to determine the eligibility of visitors to travel by air to the United States under the VWP. It collects the same information as the paper I-94W form that VWP travelers currently fill out en route to the United States. ESTA applications must be completed online at esta.cbp.dhs.gov and should be submitted at least 72 hours prior to travel to or through the United States. An ESTA authorization generally will be valid for up to two years for multiple entries into the United States. The Department of Homeland Security, which administers the program, recommends that ESTA applications be submitted as soon as an applicant begins making travel plans.

***Please Note – Olympic and Paralympic Identification and Accreditation Cards (OIACs and PIACs)** issued to Olympic Family Members participating in the Vancouver 2010 Games are **not** valid travel documents for transit through or entry into the United States.